

Environmental Action Plan

The Above & Beyond Alaska, LLC *ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN* is both a summary of past achievements, and a statement of future actions concerning our impacts on the community of Juneau and its surrounding wilderness.

Since our inception in 2002, one of our goals has been to operate an environmentally sustainable company. ABAK is conscious of its impact on the environment as seen through our reduced consumption of resources such as paper, plastic water bottles, solid wastes, and energy.

This Environmental Action Plan is a guideline towards creating a more sustainable operation for our company.

Environmental Policy Statement

The Above & Beyond Alaska, LLC environmental policy statement was first written in January of 2002 by Sean Janes – the statement demonstrates ABAK’s commitment to sustainable tourism development and environmental practices.

The aim of our environmental policy is to identify and establish principles, objectives, and goals to provide a framework for developing environmental procedures and initiatives.

We wish to be an example for responsible land use with minimal environmental impacts: Proper equipment, camping techniques, and strict Leave No Trace Principles during our trips helps to decrease negative impacts. A 6:1 client to guide ratio maintains our standard of safety and care by creating manageable group sizes that are less of an impact on the terrain and to others. Donating time and money to various environmental locations and organizations helps to protect our national forests and natural resources. Annual training seminars and community discussions conducted by ABAK guides regarding environmental issues creates awareness, and promotes our company philosophy. Ongoing environmentally friendly business practices combined with new technology will also further our sustainability. Each employee of Above & Beyond Alaska should be aware of company philosophies regarding our actions within the environment. As a team we will successfully explore, educate, and promote environmental conservation within our backyard.



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CATEGORY	DESIRED OUTCOMES	TARGETS	ACTION	PROGRESS TO DATE	Further Solutions
Solid Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize the amount of solid waste generated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting baseline & SOP's of waste-to-recycling ratio Reduce amount of paper used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake waste audit (2004), to obtain baseline information Implement program for recycling & waste (2004) Research recycling options in Juneau (2004) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit completed & implemented Volunteer cleanup & waste removal (summers of 2002 thru 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education of community (especially students) concerning trash cleanup & Leave No Trace ethics
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize the amount of plastic water bottles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of plastic waste is recycled weekly 90% reduction of plastics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling audit (winter of 2004), to obtain baseline. Create SOP's for recycling program Purchase metal reusable water bottles (spring of 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular (weekly) recycling deposits Reusable water bottles implemented into each trip offering 	
Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce CO2 output 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% reductions of CO2 emissions per year beginning 2017 (goal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete emissions audit (summer 2016) Develop annual reduction program and purchase electric or hybrid vehicles Increased regular scheduled maintenance of vans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hybrid fuel/propane passenger van Fleet of smaller vehicles with better fuel economy Education while in the field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce new technology continued education & awareness Offer incentives to employees to bike to work
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize negative impacts on the land Increase positive impacts on the land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small group size Leave No Trace Principles Group Management Route Selection & SOP's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6to1 client to guide ratio LNTP training 2002 thru 2015 Training & procedure development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are becoming a better operation each season because of the continued training & procedural development since 2002 Volunteer waste cleanup within our permitted wilderness areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued training & development of trip procedures
Gear & Equip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase maintenance and further develop procedures Purchase top quality gear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase staffing to offer better maintenance of vans, kayaks, & outdoor gear Invest in environmentally friendly gear when possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add key employees (2013-2016) Organize job duties & operating plans (continual) Research & budget gear purchases (continual) Regular cleaning of kayaks so not to contaminate fresh water or saltwater (continual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added Managers & support staff Continued investment of new gear Invest in cleaning & maintenance supplies (try to use environmentally friendly products) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a dedicated operations manager and more support staff Further develop maintenance procedures
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop primitive staging sites for kayaks Purchase a new warehouse that allows for better ops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use green building material & small footprints to blend with the environment Purchase new 5 star energy rated warehouse with passive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain various wilderness locations using primitive facilities to stage kayaks & gear Purchase land & facility with environmentally friendly design Warehouse betters procedural implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits & locations secured & seasonal low impact facilities in place Warehouse currently under construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated recycling & waste containment on site with pickup services Further develop operational procedures
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase guide training courses & curriculum Assist with community courses & other programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior management team develops guide training that further develops our staff awareness of natural history & the environment Volunteer & offer discounted outfitting services for non-profits & other agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued meeting & discussions with team Invest in guide training curriculum & instructors Continued development of operational procedure Continued relationships with local non-profits & environmental organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing instruction & annual guide training sessions (2002-2015) Assisted with various Discovery Southeast programs (2007-2015) Assisted & donated to many non-profits (Friends of Admiralty, ORCA, Disco SE, Protect Our Winters, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue helping to develop quality programs